

Montana Public Service Commission
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PSC SCHEDULES HEARINGS ON MDU'S GAS RATE HIKE PROPOSAL

The Montana Public Service Commission will hold hearings in February in Billings and four other towns on Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.'s proposal to increase its rates for natural gas.

PSC Chair Nancy McCaffree will conduct the hearings, which are scheduled as follows:

Billings - Tuesday, February 6, at 7 p.m., at the County Commission Board Room, Room 403A, Yellowstone County Courthouse, 217 North 27th St.

Baker - Wednesday, February 7, at 7 p.m., at the Baker Senior Citizens Center, Highway 12 West.

Miles City - Thursday, February 8, at 7 p.m., at the City Council Chambers, 19 South 18th Street.

Forsyth - Friday, February 9, at 7 p.m., at the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 247 N. 9th.

Hardin - Saturday, February 10, at 10 a.m., in Room 301 of the Big Horn County Courthouse, 121 W. 3rd.

MDU proposes to increase gas rates for residential customers by 12 percent and to decrease rates for some general service and small interruptible service customers by about 8 percent. According to the company, these changes would result in an annual revenue increase of about \$2.08 million.

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MDU has also requested PSC approval of other changes, including changes in monthly customer charges, a weather normalization adjustment for residential and general service customers, a declining-block rate structure, and flexibly priced interruptible sales.

According to McCaffree, "MDU has not filed for a general rate increase for gas in several years. I encourage customers to attend one of these hearings to gain a better understanding of what MDU proposes, and to voice their opinions of the company's proposal on the record."

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